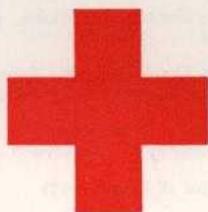


MAY 1961

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A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

Décimo octavo adjudicación de la Medalla Florence Nightingale (433^o Circular). — Acción médica de la Cruz Roja en el Congo. — Cómo fué creado, por el CICR, un servicio de búsquedas en el Congo (Ed. L. J.).

GERMAN

Achtzehnte Verleihung der Florence Nightingale-Medaille (433. Rundschreiben). — Medizinische Hilfsaktion des Roten Kreuzes im Kongo. — Wie das IRK einen Suchdienst im Kongo errichtete (Ed. L. J.).

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Penitential discipline and public wars in the Middle Ages¹

A MEDIÆVAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

II. THE PENITENTIAL DECREES AND THE BATTLES OF SOISSONS AND HASTINGS

THE BATTLE OF SOISSONS (923)

Before dealing with the Battle of Soissons itself and its effects on penitential discipline, the author discusses its historical background and setting. The end of the Ninth and the beginning of the Tenth Century saw the disintegration of the Carolingian Empire. The French Royal house in particular was submitted to two destructive forces. The first of these were the predatory raids of the Norsemen on the lands held for the King. In order to put an end to these activities, Charles the Simple ceded in 911 a whole province of his kingdom, later to be known as Normandy, thus recognizing an occupation which had already taken place, in return for which the Normans undertook to embrace Christianity. This point is of importance in view of the behaviour of these recent converts at the Battle of Soissons some twelve years later.

The second destructive force consisted of a series of determined and finally successful attempts by the Counts of Paris and Orleans to drive the descendants of Charlemagne from the throne of France. A revolt by Robert, Count of Paris, at the head of some of the French nobility,

¹ This is the second and concluding article on this subject, the first of which was published in the April 1961 number of the *International Review*.

broke out against Charles in 921, during which the bonds of loyalty to the King were solemnly renounced. Shortly afterwards, Charles' staunch supporter, the Archbishop of Rheims, died, whereupon Robert promptly seized the vacant Archbishopric for his own nominee and contrived to have himself crowned King of France. Charles refused to give up his crown and both parties proceeded to raise armies. In the early summer of 923 Charles marched on Soissons with his supporters.

The characteristics of the battle

The composition of Charles' army is not without interest,—not only in relation to his recent cession of Normandy to Duke Rollo, but also because of its bearing upon the nature of the battle itself and the ensuing Council of Bishops that it evoked. The recent conversion of the Norsemen to Christianity is a factor that may bring the transaction of that Council into clearer perspective. Charles had under his command some ten thousand men in all. Of these some 6 thousand were Lorrainers whilst the remaining 4 thousand were Norsemen under Harold the Dane. Duke Robert's forces amounted to some 20 thousand men. As to size the advantage lay with Robert but in fighting capacity Charles' 4 thousand Norsemen would be more than the equal of any others on the battlefield whilst without doubt he could count upon the loyalty of the men from Lorraine.

The battle which was fought near Soissons on Sunday 15th June 923, was of appalling ferocity. Charles found his adversary encamped and eating a meal and not prepared for battle. Charles' army promptly and without warning fell upon their opponents in a violent onslaught. Although the advantage of surprise lay with Charles, Robert's larger forces gave a good account of themselves. Duke Robert was killed in the fight but Charles' forces were compelled to retreat and were routed. As Sir Francis Palgrave states in his *History of Normandy*: —“ Soissons field enjoyed the miserable honour of humbly emulating the carnage of Fontenay (841) 11,969 Capetians, the supporters of Duke Robert, were killed, 7,118 Carolingians more than half of each army. ”

Of the subsequent events we here are only concerned with a narrow selection, namely the response of the Church to this truly

dreadful slaughter. This response was energetic and took the form of the imposition of severe penitential discipline on all those who had been on the field of blood.

Even by the prevailing standards of bloodshed and slaughter the Battle of Soissons stands out as a terrible instance of human butchery. For a time the normal machinery of law and government was completely disrupted in the general confusion that prevailed after the battle. Revolutions, disorder and tumult were the order of the day. As Palgrave puts it in his *History of Normandy* :—" All the regular constitutional assemblies of the realm had ceased ; for the tumultuous conventions which had been held were partial, irregular and revolutionary. But the ecclesiastical legislature was in full activity. A Synod was shortly afterwards held at Soissons hard by the field of slaughter ; and the Church mourning for all the crimes and miseries of the nation bore her testimony against war. All who had engaged in the war were condemned ; all who had fought, the vanquished or the victors, were alike blood guilty and must submit to the discipline which the Church imposed. No combatant was permitted to enter the walls of the Sacred edifice until canonically reconciled ; and during three years were penances to be continued, public testimonies of contrition before God and man. "

Now these are strong words and it occurs to one that this was a very singular and dramatic incident upon which the learned historian had found it necessary to express himself so forcibly. At the same time for the lawyer these words were a challenge in so far as they seemed to call for a search among the primary sources to see whether any evidence could be found to support this occurrence described by Palgrave. If, as was alleged, the conscience of the Church was moved by such carnage, even in a war, as to impose a heavy penance on those responsible, this was certainly a matter that called for investigation and enquiry.

The Synod of Soissons and its penitential decree

The author here refers to exhaustive researches which he undertook into this provincial Synod which led him finally to the Latin text of the decree in a manuscript in the possession of the Vatican Library. This reads as follows :

“ In the year of the Incarnation of Our Lord 924 and in the second year of the Episcopate of the Lord Seulf upon the assembly of the following Holy Fathers, that is to say, Seulf Archbishop of Rheims, Abbo Bishop of the town of Soissons, Adelelm of Laon, Stephen of Cambrai, also Adelelm of Senlis, Airnand then recently ordained of Noyon, together with the Legates of the other Bishops of the see of Rheims, they have decreed that this penance be enjoined on all those who have taken part in the battle of Soissons fought between Robert and Charles, in the following manner, that is to say :—that they do penance for three 40-day periods for three years. Thus for the first 40-day period let them be outside the Church and let them be reconciled at the Table of the Lord. Also, throughout all these three 40-day periods let them abstain in bread and water on the second, fourth and sixth days of each week or let them redeem. Similarly for 15 days before the birth of St. John the Baptist and for 15 days before the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour. And on every 6th day throughout the whole year unless they shall redeem or an important feast shall fall on the same day or it shall transpire that they have been detained by sickness or by military service. ” . . .

It cannot escape our attention that this penance is enjoined on all the combatants on both sides irrespective of whether they belong to the army of Charles or to that of Robert. That is an interesting fact and for two reasons in particular. It would perhaps not have been extraordinary if the penance had been enjoined solely on the followers of Charles. After all it was his army which had made the surprise attack and what is more, made it on the Sunday. Further, just under one half of Charles' army was composed of Norsemen whose fame as slaughterers and pillagers was well known throughout the greater part of France. It would equally well have been known to the Holy Fathers who came together at this Synod of 924 that the Norsemen's conversion to Christianity was an event as recent as 13 years before. It is difficult to imagine that the Holy Fathers in God of the Province of Rheims would be unaware of that fact and of the necessity for curbing the warlike propensities of the Norsemen now that they were in the fold of Christendom. Was this penance imposed on the combatants on both sides because the prevailing situation was so fluid that kings

like archbishops, came and went very quickly ? It may be hazarded that by the year 924 it was too early to discern the outcome of the struggle between Raoul and Herbert whilst Charles the descendant of the House of Charlemagne was still alive. Was this penance imposed because of the Church's horror at this internecine warfare not merely between Christians but between the West Franks themselves. Was the war, because of its civil nature, " non justum " for both parties ? These and many other like questions can only be answered by conjecture.

The second reason why the impartiality of the imposition of penance is of interest lies in this. The other notable instance of a Synod of Bishops imposing penance on those who participated in a battle will be dealt with later when discussing the Battle of Hastings. As we shall see, the Synod of Norman Bishops which met in the year 1070 imposed detailed and severe penance only on the Norman and other followers of Duke William. On that occasion the losing side, the Saxons, were spared the penance of Holy Church. No doubt the miseries of the defeated Saxons were sufficiently great without the added imposition of penance.

In the eyes of the Church Charles the Simple had a strong and undeniable claim to be considered the lawful King of France whilst Robert, in spite of his coronation at Rheims was without doubt, an usurper. Yet Charles had fallen upon his adversary by surprise, had employed the Normans whose habits were only too well known and had chosen Sunday as the day on which to launch a particularly bloody battle. Although it is impossible to weigh accurately the motives that led to this impartial enjoinder of penance by the Soissons Synod, it may possibly be advanced that all of the above factors played their part in determining the form of the decree that the Council enjoined. Certainly one can say that there were many points of distinction between the circumstances of the Battle of Soissons and that of the Battle of Hastings.

It will also have been observed that the penance imposed by the Synod of 924 bound all those who had actually participated or been present at the Battle. Mere presence without even a blow struck or a wound given seemed to call for penitential punishment. In this respect the decree of the Council of 924 goes considerably further than the principle pervading the Penitential Book on this subject.

As we pointed out earlier, the general rule established in the Penitential Books was that the killing of a man in a public war attracted a penance of 40 days duration. Nothing is said in those books of any penance for the wounding of a man or for merely being present as a combatant at a battle.

As to the penance the Council saw fit to impose, it was without doubt severe. We do not know the precise contents of the penance but an exclusion from the Church for a 40-day period in 3 consecutive years was no light matter. Whether this meant exclusion from the physical precincts of the churches or whether it meant a spiritual severance from the Holy Sacrament and the corporate membership of the church is not clear.

The author is of the opinion that the latter was intended, hence the severity of the penance which "placed the soul in peril". He also analyses the "redemption" clause by which penitents were allowed to commute or even satisfy the penance by gifts of land to a religious house or for the building or the repairing of a church or by making a pilgrimage. Those who were able to do so made frequent resort to such a clause. He points out that an exception was made in the rules of fasting whilst the penitent was on military service and this in his opinion showed "that the military calling is a perfectly licit one for a Christian. It is not the mere fact of being a soldier, but the excessive bloodshed that calls down the sanction of penance".

The effects of the penitential decree of Soissons

The mere fact that this penance was embodied and promulgated in a formal decree of a Synod is significant. Public penance may well have disappeared from this part of Christendom many centuries before, if it ever flourished there at all. The penance of the Penitential Books was essentially a private affair between the penitent and the confessor in which the sin is elicited by questions or established by repute and the knowledge of the confessor. Here, in the Synod of Soissons we have something very different. The Battle of 923 was a public and tragic event known to all. There were bereaved families to establish each detail of the slaughter. Likewise the Assembly of the Council is not likely to have been a secret affair

and its decree from its very nature would be publicly promulgated in order that the mind of the Church upon the matter might be known to all. It would have been common knowledge whether a particular individual had or had not been present at the battle. Even if public penance had disappeared this penitential decree of the Council of Bishops gave a degree of publicity to the affair that must have made a considerable impression on contemporaries. The very reason that led the Church to intervene in this solemn manner would not, it is thought, have induced the Council to enact its decree in secret. It was to all intents and purposes a quasi-public imposition of penance.

It will be noticed that unlike the rules in the penitential books, the decree of the Synod does not state a general rule of canonical discipline but is an *ad hoc* measure dealing with a specific set of circumstances.

It can be urged, I think, that the explanation of this Council and its decree lies in the traditional aversion of the Christian Church to the shedding of blood and in particular, of Christian blood. Fitful and erratic though the public expression of this aversion may have been, yet the evidence shows that on occasions the Church could be shocked into decreeing a public anathema. The Battle of Soissons was from the penitential viewpoint something more than the ordinary priest could grapple with by the use of his Penitential Book and the imposition of a 40-days penance. The fact of the battle and the loss of life stared the Church in the face. We may be forced to the conclusion that there was no coherent principle lying behind the Church's spasmodic intervention in such matters but that there were limits beyond which the conscience of Christendom was compelled to assert itself in a formal and public act. In this instance penitential discipline was the mode of such assertion. Thus the traditional aversion of the ancient Christian Church to bloodshed, kept alive by the rule of 40-days penance in the long series of Penitential Books could, on singular occasions, be revived by an *ad hoc* penitential decree of a Council.

That Christians of the same race should thus massacre each other in a civil war was a scandal to Christendom that cried aloud to heaven for vengeance. Therefore, let Christians be reminded, the Church seems to say in this instance, that the Church of Christ has,

au fond, an aversion to the shedding of blood, particularly Christian blood. “ *En principe très dure, en pratique très large* ” is all very well but on occasions the practice of Mother Church has to be lifted up to its principles.

The presence at the Battle of Soissons of the recently converted Norsemen cannot have been absent from the minds of those who sat on the Council.

No doubt the Norsemen had taken a good toll of human lives. This behaviour of the new entrants into the fold of Christ was not impressive and it may be that those responsible for the penitential discipline imposed by the Council considered that the Norsemen might stand in some need of reminder of the ancient principles of Christianity. The occasion of this Council was as good as any other to make these newly converted pagans aware of the existence of a penitential system which closed the gates of heaven against those who died in contempt of God and his Holy Church by failing to carry out the penance enjoined.

THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS (1066)

Background and Setting

The background of the Battle of Hastings, fought with such ferocity, enables one to appreciate even more than that of Soissons, the full effects of the penitential canons which were subsequently decreed by the Church. The author draws attention not only to the importance of this battle in the history of mediaeval England which even today continues to provide much heated controversy, but he also discusses in particular the attitude of the Church on the eve of that event and of its subsequent effect.

The Eleventh Century was in mediaeval Church history the great century of reform. William, as Duke of Normandy belonged to the so-called traditional Reforming Group. It was an important element in William's skilful diplomacy in evoking the support of the Church that he should appear as its champion against Harold, King of England, who was the associate of Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the most notorious simonists and pluralists of Western Europe.

Indeed, there is much evidence that on the eve of the conquest, the Saxon Church, with certain exceptions, was lax in spiritual matters and sadly in need of spiritual and disciplinary overhaul. Over a long period before 1066, William of Normandy had been sounding out the feeling at Rome in regard to his claims to the throne of England. In Cardinal Hildebrand, the future Pope Gregory VII, he found a skilful advocate of his interests. It was therefore by no means fortuitous that on the eve of the invasion of England, William received a banner specially blessed by the Pope which was to be on more than one occasion a rallying point on the battlefield as well as a sign of the Church's support for his military adventure. In the Twentieth Century, such support would be tantamount, as the author says, to a "resolution of the United Nations General Assembly recommending collective sanctions against an aggressor".

Furthermore, the fact that William was the invader was countered by a very effective auxiliary argument that Harold on his ill-fated journey to Normandy in 1064, had sworn fealty to him and that he had promised that he would do all in his power on the death of Edward the Confessor to ensure that the kingdom of England would revert to him. According to this argument, Harold was a perjured vassal who in breach of his solemn oath had committed an act of perfidy by seizing the Crown of England on the very day on which Edward was buried at Westminster. The support which William received in men and arms as well as the fury and violence of the Normans during the battle, even against the corpse of King Harold, can perhaps be explained in part by this circumstance.

Of the actual fighting that took place on the slopes of the Sussex downs throughout the hours of daylight of Sunday the 14th of October we have graphic and detailed accounts.

Three salient factors emerge as contributing to William's bloody victory. First the Normans had the control of the narrow seas which enabled William to land his forces unopposed complete with his horses. Second, the skilful use of well-mounted and well-armed knights was more than a match for the courageous foot-soldiers of the Saxons armed with their famous battleaxes. Thirdly, the tactical use of the Norman archers to support the charges of the cavalry was a notorious success.

The battle was as decisive a victory as the carnage was appalling. William of Poitiers tells us : " Enflamed by the ardour of Duke William the Normans then surrounded several thousands of their pursuers and rapidly cut them down so that no one escaped. " Later on the same chronicler tells us : " The English fought confidently with all their strength striving in particular to prevent the attackers from penetrating into their own ranks which were indeed so closely massed together that even the dead had not space in which to fall The Normans threw and struck and pierced. The movements of those who were cut down to death appeared greater than that of the living ; and those who were lightly wounded could not escape because of the density of their formation but were crushed in the throng. Thus fortune crowned the triumph of William."

The bitter and cruel aftermath of the battle of Hastings is common knowledge. Exeter and many other towns were utterly destroyed. The North was harried and devastated until nothing living moved. In the year 1070 the Anglo-Saxon chronicle tells us in laconical terms : " And in the following spring (1070) the King had all the monasteries that were in England plundered." The years 1066 to 1070 were in fact terrible years of misery and distress. Churches were spoiled, homes were burnt and the Saxon women took refuge in nunneries to escape the insane lust of the Normans. Men were cut down like standing corn.

The year 1070 also saw the final subjection of the last remnants of rebellion in England. The country had paid a terrible price for its resistance and the time had come for peace and the healing balm of settlement now that the fruits of conquest were certain. Throughout the years of the revolt the Saxon Church had with certain exceptions been the focal point of rebellion. Whether William in his rôle as a supporter of the move for Reform at the hands of lay Princes and as a skilful statesman saw the possibilities of this is not established but it would seem more than probable. If he could purge the Saxon Church of its abuses by way of contribution to the Reform movement he could at one and the same time remove the offending Saxon clergy and replace them by Norman clerics, men of tried zeal, administrative ability and of undoubted loyalty. Thus in one fell swoop Reform and peace might be achieved.

The penitential decrees of 1070 and their results

Events played into William's hands. The initiative for the Reform of the Saxon Church came from Rome itself when a Papal commission which was charged to convene a great council was entrusted to Ermenfrid, Bishop of Sion and Papal legate. This council was held at Winchester at Easter 1070 and condemned and destituted a large number of Saxon Bishops to the benefit of Norman clerics, thus crowning William's triumph. The author quotes the historian Stenton: "The work of the commission ended with a remarkable episode in Normandy. Returning across France, Ermenfrid held a council of Norman Bishops which imposed a set of penances on all ranks of the Conqueror's Army."

The author's researches led him finally to the discovery of three manuscripts which give an account of the council held in Normandy. The text of the penitential decrees imposed in this council is as follows:

"This is an Institution of Penance according to the decrees of the Bishops of the Normans confirmed by the authority of the Pope through his Legate Ermenfrid, Bishop of Sitten. It is to apply to those men whom William Duke of the Normans commandeth, and who gave military service as their duty.

Anyone who knows that he killed a man in the great battle (Hastings) must do penance for one year for each man that he killed.

Anyone who wounded a man and does not know whether he killed him or not, must do penance for forty days for each man he thus struck (if he can remember the number) either continuously or at intervals.

Anyone who does not know the number of those he wounded or killed must at the discretion of the Bishop do penance for one day in each week for the remainder of his life; or if he can, let him redeem his sin by perpetual alms either by building or by endowing a Church.

The clerics who fought or were armed for fighting must do penance as if they committed the sins in their own country, for they are forbidden by the canons to do battle. The penances of the monks are to be determined by their rule and by the judgment of their abbots. Those who fought merely for gain are to know that they owe a penance as for homicide. But those who fought as in a public

war have been allotted a penance of three years by their Bishops out of mercy.

The Archers who killed some and wounded others, but are necessarily ignorant as to how many, must do penance as for three Lents.

Apart from the actual battle anyone who before the Consecration of the King killed those who resisted as he was going through the countryside for the sake of food must do penance for one year for each man he so killed. But if it was not for food but merely for plunder that he was foraging he must do penance for three years for each man he then killed.

Those who have killed men after the Consecration of the King must do penance as for homicides wilfully committed, always with the exception that if the men thus killed or wounded were in arms against the King, then the penalties will be as before stated.

Those who committed adulteries or rapes or fornications must do penance as if these sins had been committed in their own country.

Concerning the violation of the Church likewise. Let those who stole from Churches restore what they stole to the Church they robbed, if they can. If they cannot, let them restore it to some other Church. And if they will not restore it then the Bishops have decreed that they may not sell it nor may anyone buy it."

This set of penitential decrees is of considerable interest in many different branches of knowledge. Numerous questions come crowding into our minds as we read these extremely practical rules. As Professor Stenton has emphasised, the realism of the code is admirable. The lawyer too cannot fail to be impressed by the neatness and clarity displayed in the formulation of the rules. For a full study of this document a series of lectures would be necessary. We should need to consider among other things its authenticity, its provenance, its date, the place of the council, the reasons for the decrees, their precise significance, their relation to penitential discipline generally, their unilateral nature in so far as they relate solely to the followers of King William, their legal implication and many other related questions. Here one can but briefly consider some of the salient matters that call for enquiry.

One thing seems clear. If you consider the seventy-one scenes so vividly depicted in that superb chronicle, the Bayeux tapestry and then read the penitential canons, the latter take on a living reality.

Yet the Bayeux tapestry is essentially the story of the defeat of Harold, the perjured and false vassal of William. Nevertheless the tapestry conveys quite clearly to the beholder a dramatic picture of the appalling slaughter on the battlefield. The border of the tapestry is strewn with figures of the dead, dying and mutilated that leaves little to the imagination. The memory of the battle seems to have made a like impression on those who ordered and executed the tapestry and on Ermenfrid and the Norman Bishops who collaborated with him in formulating these penitential canons.

After having touched on several different aspects of these decrees, especially as regards their authenticity and the date, the author then refers to a matter of particular importance: the Church's apparently inconsistent attitude.

The Pope had in fact given his blessing to William's expedition and had sent him a consecrated banner which was to be a rallying point for his followers at Hastings. Why then should he have ordered his legate to convene and preside at a Synod that imposed such severe penance on all who had fought with William in that battle?

In this connection, the author mentions that shortly before this council met, Ermenfrid had presided at the councils of Winchester and Windsor, which were notable steps in the movement for the reform of the Saxon Church. Having been superseded by Norman clerics, the Saxon Bishops and Abbots had paid the price for their spiritual and moral laxity. It is therefore likely, according to the author, that the Pope had now decided to make the Norman soldiers answer in their turn for their excesses and depredations. The entire Christian world had been horrified and shocked by the atrocities which had been committed and consequently the Church considered that the time had come to inflict penalties.

The characteristics of the penances

As for the canons themselves the penance is undoubtedly severe. They distinguish between killing and wounding. The former, if certain, attracts a penance of one year for each killing, something much severer than that enjoined by the penitential books. Again we find the escape clause of redemption by almsgiving or church building or endowment. The monks and priests get special treat-

ment, many of them must have fought in the battle. If they fought for loot and killed, they do penance as for homicide that is normally seven years.

It is clear from the canons that William himself is exempt but the chroniclers have it that the bloodshed and devastation lay heavy on his conscience when he was dying. Odo, who according to the Bayeux tapestry is seen wielding a club and encouraging the young soldiers who had panicked during the battle may have extracted himself from the canons on the ground that he was not 'armed for fighting'. As he is clearly seen in the tapestry wearing a helmet and armour in the thick of the battle the evidence is all against him.

The Archers who receive a fixed penance for the use of their weapon debar the normal operation of penance based on the knowledge of the individual sinner of the harm he has done. This element of knowledge is a clear form of legal thinking and flows logically from the Christian conception of sin.

The killings after the battle receive more severe treatment graded according to whether they occurred before or after the Coronation of the King, but with admirable realism due allowance is made when the victims killed were offering armed resistance against the King. Self-defence is thus recognized. As for the rapes and fornications by the Normans, their reputation for such activities was infamous throughout Europe and they behaved with no exception in England. Manuscript material exists to show that years afterwards Lanfranc, whom William had appointed Primate of England, had to resolve in council whether to release from their vows those Saxon women who had fled to convents and taken the veil in order to avoid the sexual assaults of the Normans. Lanfranc released them from their vows for they wanted to get married but he duly rebuked them for the lightness with which they had taken such a solemn vow.

Finally, we see the Church's natural concern for the wholesale spoliation of church property. The Saxon monasteries had been systematically looted in the previous year 1069. A great traffic in the stolen goods was well under way. Many of the beautiful objects of Saxon church art as treasure ornaments and vestments found their way to churches in Normandy. Prominent as a receiver of

looted church property was William's wife Queen Matilda. This lady of pious habits endowed with regal magnificence the churches of the Duchy of Normandy with beautiful objects of Saxon art looted from Saxon churches by her husband's followers.

Conclusions

From this all too brief survey of a unique ecclesiastical activity, only a limited number of tentative conclusions may properly be advanced.

The horrors and bloodshed of Hastings and its aftermath had severely shaken Western Christendom including the Papal Curia from which approval and blessing for William's adventure of invasion and conquest had originally emanated. William's case presented on the basis of Harold's fealty as a vassal of the Duke had met and concurred in all points with Hildebrand's scheme of reform and in particular with that part of the reform that was aimed at the Saxon Church. Hildebrand was, however, an over-zealous advocate for William's interests and that when the battle had been fought and the four years of misery and slaughter had passed, the Roman Curia thought that the time had come when William's followers should expiate by penitential works their deeds of blood, spoliation and their sexual excesses. The attitude of the Church reflected in the decrees was evidence of the lack of a consistent Christian principle in regard to participation in wars and inconsistency further heightened in this instance by the Church's approbation and reprobation of the Norman conquest. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say an approbation of the objective and a reprobation of the means.

Finally, I would like to suggest that these penitential decrees show a realism and a sincerity which is in painful contrast to the compromise that the Church had made with warfare and which is still with us today. The Church's original idealism is still to be observed in these canons. The aversion from bloodshed is not forgotten. The words in the canons "Let him redeem his sin by perpetual alms" are an emphatic and unambiguous penitential judgment. As the desire to crush by force the heresies prevalent in the time of St. Augustine played, I think, a decisive part in the

PENITENTIAL DISCIPLINE AND PUBLIC WARS

formulation of his authoritative pronouncement that participation in war is not necessarily a sin, so in the Eleventh Century the desire to extend the ambit of reform may have led the Church to an overhasty approval of William's expedition. When the full scale of slaughter and horror was known the Church decided to act and once more fell back upon the traditional Christian aversion to the shedding of blood. Such action was a greater tribute to its sincerity than to the logic of any clear principle. These penitential canons can therefore be considered to be the natural outcome of the Church's agony of conscience.

G.I.A.D. DRAPER L.L.M.,
Lecturer in Laws, King's College,
London.

**EIGHTEENTH AWARD
OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL**

GENEVA, May 12, 1961.

*433rd Circular
to the Central Committees of National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its Circular No. 430 of August 23, 1960, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article I of the Regulations, was accompanied by questionnaires bearing various headings for the candidatures.

The first object of this Medal is to honour nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion to sick or wounded in the difficult and perilous situations which often prevail in times of war or public disasters. The Regulations also provide that a maximum number of 36 medals shall be awarded every two years and that the candidates' names must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross before March 1 of the year in which the distribution takes place.

In accordance with these Regulations, the International Committee, after a careful study of the files submitted, is happy to announce that for the Eighteenth Distribution the Medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids:¹

¹ Since the designation, qualifications and duties of nursing personnel do not always have an exact equivalent in the various languages, it seemed to be preferable to leave them as in the original text.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

AUSTRALIA :

1. *Squadron Officer Margaret Jean Moloney*, Registered Nurse, Midwife and Deputy-Matron.
2. *Miss Jean Evelyn Headberry*, Registered Nurse, Midwife and Dean of Royal Melbourne and Assoc. Hospitals School of Nursing.

CHILE :

3. *Señora Paulina Perelman de Wilhelm*, Auxiliar voluntaria.
4. *Señora Blanca Luarte de Cavieres*, Auxiliar voluntaria.

DENMARK :

5. *Miss Ellen Johanne Broe*, Graduate Nurse, Director of Florence Nightingale Education Division under International Council of Nurses.

FINLAND :

6. *Miss Anne Marie Krohn*, Graduate Nurse, Director of the School Foundation for Cripples.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC :

7. *Oberschwester Benigna Niggel*, Diplomierte Krankenschwester, Unterrichtsschwester Schwesternschule Rotes Kreuz, Munich.
8. *Oberin Marianne Petersen*, Diplomierte Krankenschwester, DKR-Schwesternschaft Rheinisches Mutterhaus, Essen.
9. *Oberin Maliese v. Bechtolsheim*, Diplomierte Krankenschwester, DKR-Schwesternschaft « Georgia-Augusta », Göttingen.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

GREAT BRITAIN :

10. *Sister Olive Laura Colquhoun*, M.B.E., Registered Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor.
11. *Miss Marjorie Eadon Craven*, R.R.C., Registered Nurse, Midwife and Matron-in-Chief, British Red Cross Society.

INDIA :

12. *Miss Mariam Korah*, Registered Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor, Public Health Nurse, Superintendent, Lady Reading Health School.

ITALY :

13. *Sœur Stella Diana*, Infirmière volontaire et infirmière professionnelle.
14. *Sœur Carolina Cresto Calvo*, Infirmière volontaire et infirmière professionnelle.
15. *Sœur Carolina Salvati Accolti Gil*, Infirmière volontaire.

JAPAN :

16. *Mademoiselle Haru Shinozaki*, Infirmière diplômée, sage-femme, infirmière-major, Directrice du Département des Infirmières, Hôpital de Musashino.
17. *Mademoiselle Hideko Yamazaki*, Infirmière diplômée, infirmière-major, Directrice du Département des Infirmières, Hôpital de Tottori.
18. *Mademoiselle Yaé Ibuka*, Infirmière diplômée, Infirmière-chef de l'Hôpital Fukusei.

KOREA (South) :

19. *Miss Young-Jin Kim*, Graduate Nurse, Director of Nursing Service, St. Joseph's Hospitals, Seoul.
20. *Miss Sin-Eun Choi*, Graduate Nurse, Midwife and Director of Nursing Service at Hwa Ho Central Hospital of Rural Sanitation Research Centre of Cholla-Pudko.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

NEW ZEALAND :

21. *Miss Doris Ogilvy Ramsay*, Voluntary Aid, Centre Commandant Otago, V.A.Ds.
22. *Mrs. Edith Mary Rudd*, R.R.C., Graduate Nurse, former Matron of Wairau Hospital.

NORWAY :

23. *Sister Annie Margareth Skau*, Graduate Nurse, Matron of Haven of Hope TBC Sanatorium, Hong Kong.

PAKISTAN :

24. *Mrs. Amy Sajjad*, Registered Nurse, Midwife, Tutor-Sister and Superintendent, Nishtar Hospital, Multan.

PHILIPPINES :

25. *Miss Julita V. Sojeto*, Graduate Nurse, Dean, College of Nursing, Philippine University.

POLAND :

26. *Mademoiselle Maria Stencel*, Infirmière diplômée, Directrice de l'Ecole d'Infirmières, Lodz.
27. *Madame Wanda Lorenczuk*, Infirmière diplômée, monitrice et inspectrice des infirmières, Gdansk.

SWEDEN:

28. *Mrs. Emma Dagmar Stenbeck*, Voluntary Aid, President of the Committee for Auxiliary Nurses, Swedish Red Cross.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA :

29. *Miss Constance Anne Nothard*, R.R.C., Graduate Nurse, former Matron-in-Chief, South African Military Nursing Services.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS :

30. *Madame Irina Nikolaievna Levchenko*, Auxiliaire-volontaire.
31. *Madame Lydia Philippovna Savtchenko*, Auxiliaire-volontaire.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

32. *Miss Pearl McIver*, Registered Nurse, former Chief of Public Health Nursing Services.
33. *Sister Charles Marie*, (Frank) C.C.V.I., Registered Nurse, Dean, School of Nursing and Professor of Nursing Education, Catholic University America.
34. *Miss Cecilia H. Hauge*, Registered Nurse, Director, Veterans Administration Nursing Service.

The medals and diplomas, accompanied in each case by a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale, will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees. The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to receive acknowledgments of their receipt in due course.

The Committee would be grateful if the Medals could be presented in the course of this year and requests the Central Committees to give the ceremony a character of solemnity as the founders of this distinction desired. It would be pleased to publish in the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge* an account—if possible with photograph—of the ceremony organized in this connection.

Yours faithfully

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Léopold BOISSIER
President

THE RED CROSS MEDICAL ACTION IN THE CONGO

The Red Cross medical teams in the Congo, which now include more than 35 doctors, are continuing their work courageously in conditions which are sometimes difficult. Several of the teams are working in remote areas and are almost cut off from the outside world. Nevertheless, in most cases, the ICRC Delegation is able to send them the equipment and medicaments they need, should other means of transport be lacking, by chartering private aircraft. A donation of the British Red Cross made it possible to purchase and dispatch a quantity of medicaments of which the teams were in need.

The safety of these teams also raises delicate problems; in February and March various incidents occurred, such as temporary arrests, searches and even—fortunately an isolated case—ill-treatment. The energetic approaches of the ICRC Delegation to civil and military authorities on these occasions has led to some positive results: in particular, the issue to each member of the teams of a special military pass.

For his part, the Minister of Health, Mr. Bolya, broadcast the following declaration over Radio Leopoldville which was also published in the Congolese press:

On April 7, the Minister of Health, Mr. Bolya, received the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to whom he expressed the gratitude of the Congolese Government and people for the medical aid afforded the Congo by the Red Cross.

Fifteen voluntary medical teams, including 33 doctors, had been made available by the National Red Cross Societies and were assisting the population throughout the Congo. The Minister wished to take this opportunity of expressing his regret for certain incidents to which some of the teams had been exposed, and to give the assurance that the Government would take all necessary steps to avoid a recurrence of such incidents.

The Minister of Health stressed in particular that the Provincial Ministers should do their utmost to protect the Red Cross and WHO teams, who were contributing so generously towards the maintenance of the health of the population—which was their sole aim.

The two most recent teams under this programme, made available by the Turkish Red Crescent and the Red Cross in the German Federal Republic, arrived in Leopoldville early in April. As mentioned in a previous issue, the medical relief action in the Congo, which was originally planned for three months and subsequently prolonged on two occasions, will come to an end on June 30, 1961. This Red Cross emergency aid will therefore have lasted just over eleven months. It is to be hoped that, through measures taken by the Congolese authorities and the World Health Organization, the Red Cross teams will be relieved by other doctors and that there will be no interruption in the medical assistance to the population.

SPECIAL FUNDS

The accounts appended concern the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Augusta Fund and the Florence Nightingale Medal. Details concerning the Empress Shôken Fund (as on December 31, 1960) were given in the previous issue of the *Revue internationale* in connection with the fortieth distribution of allocations from the income of this Fund. It will be recalled that the Augusta Fund was established to commemorate the eminent services rendered to the Red Cross by the Empress of Germany, Queen of Prussia, and was intended to be employed in the general interests of the Red Cross. The Fund for the Florence Nightingale Medal was established in memory of the services of Florence Nightingale. The income is used for the distribution of a medal by the ICRC, every two years, awarded to Red Cross nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion to sick or wounded in time of peace or of war.

The principal resources of the International Committee of the Red Cross—an independent institution—consist of voluntary contributions from governments and National Red Cross Societies. In addition, the ICRC organises an annual collection of funds in Switzerland. In 1960 the Swiss people contributed a total sum of 1,110,400 Swiss francs, of which Fr. 273,482 represent the contribution of Swiss commercial firms towards the financing of the ICRC ; the remainder (Fr. 830,918) is made up of donations in favour of relief actions and will enable the Committee to provide emergency relief supplies for the victims of armed conflicts now being waged in several parts of the world.

**FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS**

BALANCE SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1960

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.	Sw. Fr.
Government securities :		Inalienable capital	1,028,252.52
Credit entered in the Swiss Confe- deration Nation- al Debt Re- gister	827,000.—	Inalienable reserve fund :	
Securities depo- sited at the Swiss National Bank	295,000.—	Balance brought forward from 1959	107,187.35
	1,122,000.—	<i>Plus</i> Statutory alloca- tion of 15 % on income in 1960	5,507.10
Deposit at the Swiss National Bank	48,365.57	Increase in esti- mated value of securities	6,150.—
Administration fédérale des contributions (tax paid in advance to be refunded)	8,102.—	Total value of funds	118,844.45
	<u>1,178,467.57</u>	International Committee of the Red Cross :	
		Funds in current account	31,370.60
			<u>1,178,467.57</u>

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1960¹

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sw. Fr.		Sw. Fr.
Deposit fees for safe custody of securities, auditors' fees and various expenses	268.15	Revenue from securities in 1960	36,982.20
Statutory allocation to inalien- able reserve fund : 15 % of the net revenue in 1960 (Art. 8 of the Statutes)	5,507.10		
Allocation to the ICRC of bal- ance of net revenue for 1960 (Art. 7 of the Statutes)	31,206.95		
	<u>36,982.20</u>		<u>36,982.20</u>

¹ These accounts have been verified by the Société Fiduciaire Romande OFOR S.A., Geneva, and found to be accurate according to their Report dated February 2, 1961.

AUGUSTA FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1960

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sw. Fr.		Sw. Fr.
Swiss Government securities	120,000.—	Inalienable capital	100,000.—
Deposit at the Swiss National Bank	12,175.65	Reserve for fluctuation in value	18,178.45
Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (tax paid in advance to be re-funded)	1,089.40	Funds available on December 31, 1960	3,956.60
		Total value of funds	122,135.05
		Creditors (allocations still to be distributed)	11,000.—
		International Committee of the Red Cross :	
		Funds in current account	130.—
	133,265.05		133,265.05

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1960¹

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sw. Fr.		Sw. Fr.
10th distribution of allocations to 13 National Red Cross Societies according to the 432nd circular of November 25, 1960	28,000.—	Balance brought forward form 1959	28,445.30
Deposit fees for safe custody of securities, auditors' fees and various expenses	402.60	Income from securities in 1960	3,913.90
Total expenses	28,402.60		
Balance available on December 31, 1960:			
Balance brought forward from the previous year	28,445.30		
Less :			
Excess of expenditure over receipts in 1960	24,488.70		3,956.60
	32,359.20		32,359.20

¹ These accounts have been verified by the Société Fiduciaire Romande OFOR S.A., Geneva, and found to be accurate according to their Report dated February 2, 1961.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

BALANCE SHEET AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1960

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sw. Fr.		Sw. Fr.
Swiss Government securities . .	32,000.—	Inalienable capital	25,000.—
Deposit in the Swiss National Bank	918.70	Reserve	
Administration fédérale des contributions, Berne (tax paid in advance to be refunded) . .	259.20	Balance brought forward from 1959	1,600.—
		Increase in estimated value of securities	1,280.—
			2,880.—
		<i>Less :</i>	
		Excess of expenditure over receipts in 1960	570.21 2,309.79
		Total value of funds	27,309.79
		International Committee of the Red Cross :	
		Funds in current account	5,868.11
	33,177.90		33,177.90

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1960¹

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sw. Fr.		Sw. Fr.
Printing costs, Circular No. 430	305.—	Income from securities in 1960	931.20
Auditors' fees, deposit fees for safe custody of securities, bank fees and various expenses	179.15	Debit balance as on December 31, 1960 :	
Total expenses	484.15	Debit balance brought forward from 1959	1,017.26
Debit balance brought forward from 1959	1,017.26	<i>Less :</i>	
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1960	447.05 570.21
	1,501.41		1,501.41

¹ These accounts have been verified by the Société Fiduciaire Romande OFOR S.A., Geneva, and found to be accurate according to their Report dated February 2, 1961.

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

In its letter of February 24, 1961, to the Federal Political Department in Berne, the Government of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) confirms that this State would abide by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as from June 30, 1960 when it became independent.

On March 14, 1961, the Government of Portugal deposited with the Swiss Federal Council the instruments whereby the State ratified the Geneva Conventions. The ratification will come into force following the six months' delay provided by the Conventions, namely on September 14, 1961.

At the present time eighty States are formally bound by the 1949 Conventions. This figure does not, however, include several States which having become independent during recent years are bound by the Conventions to which the States they had succeeded were parties. In cases of this description the ICRC has always requested that it be given official confirmation of accession to the Conventions ; this has been done by some States (the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville), Cambodia and Ghana) but not so far by all. This notification, even if it appears to be superfluous, has nevertheless the great advantage of removing any doubt on the subject.

NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

Bolivia

We are now pleased to be able to report on the Bolivian Red Cross, thanks to the reappearance of its official, bulletin *Revista de la Cruz Roja Boliviana*. In the editorial we read: "The substantial reductions which we were obliged to make in our publicity budget, in order to allow for greater allocations for social welfare purposes, prevented us from providing regular information on the effective and unassuming work being carried out by our organization on behalf of the Bolivian population, especially on behalf of needy families . . ."

The cover of this review illustrates, by means of small, revealing pictures, this work, and one is immediately struck by the important part assigned to child welfare in the work of this National Society: a children's canteen, aid to mothers, milk centres and a children's home. In addition, illustrations showing blood transfusions, emergency relief, first aid, social welfare and aid to invalids bear witness to the many different aspects of Red Cross action in Bolivia.

A glance inside the pamphlet confirms our first impression regarding child welfare, for we find this concern for the children, both young and older, revealed in many different ways. On the first page, under the heading "Centre for Mother and Child Care" we see a doctor examining a baby. In the article we learn that another such centre is under construction in a populous quarter of the capital, La Paz; at the first centre, about 5,300 children were examined during 1959. An important pre-natal section, working jointly with the child-care section of this Society, provides medical attention for expectant mothers. The above-mentioned child-care section constitutes the "axis" of the Centre's work; it receives a large number of children with different illnesses each day, as well as mothers who

come for advice on matters of feeding. In addition, the Centre has a laboratory where the necessary analyses and blood-tests are carried out in order to keep a watch on the health of the mothers-to-be.

The "Children's Canteen" was set up in 1954 and contributes to a large extent to the moral and economic protection of the mother and to the child's education before he goes to school, as well as helping the national economy by enabling the mother to work more efficiently in the workshops and factories, and by providing better nourishment for hundreds of children whose mothers go out to work. It also includes a "Mothers Club" and a "Milk Section". The work of this centre, which is spreading to other towns, has already given very satisfactory results; it concentrates all its efforts on helping the children of poor families, without removing them from their mothers, except while they are at work. Thus the Red Cross does not play the rôle of a "guardian", but merely performs the duties which belong to it.

It should be added that the very smallest are also helped and protected by the Red Cross: in the photographs we see some of them in their cots at the Nursery and others learning to walk in the Nursery gardens.

The Bolivian Red Cross also runs another interesting institution: the "Carmen V. de Ernst" corrective home for young women in the region of Uriraflore. This home is entirely maintained by the Bolivian Red Cross and is staffed by a specialized personnel which skillfully performs the delicate task of reintegrating these girls who, "for some reason or other, were living on the fringe of society" into the life of the community. In the dressmaking and knitting rooms, the girls can learn a profession.

In spite of devoting a great part of its work to child-care, this National Society does not neglect the traditional Red Cross activities on behalf of adults and of providing emergency relief. We are shown a consulting room with modern equipment which is open all day to give first aid, etc. to the poor population. During 1959, about 5,000 consultations were given free of charge and large quantities of medicaments, often very expensive, distributed. It should be pointed out, in conclusion, that the Bolivian Red Cross Society gave its assistance on the occasion of natural disasters, such as floods, as well as in the case of strikes, accidents, etc.

When one reads this review, one has the impression of a well-balanced and efficient activity which bears witness to the vitality of the Red Cross in South America.

Germany

A DRIVING SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED

During the ten years since its re-constitution, the "Landesverband Berlin" of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic has always felt itself bound to take on, apart from the usual Red Cross duties, various other activities called for by our time which also correspond to the humanitarian spirit of our movement. One of these activities is the driving-school for the disabled run by the German Red Cross in Berlin. This school was set up in 1947 by a private individual who was later obliged for financial reasons to give up this very special undertaking. Convinced that the school responded to a real need, the Red Cross in Berlin took it over in December 1953.

Between that date and Spring 1960, 1,700 learners enrolled, of whom 80 % had suffered leg amputations or were paralyzed (amputation at the knee or upper thigh, amputation of both legs, transverse myelitis, infantile paralysis). Those with both hands amputated (nearly all of whom succeeded in learning to drive after the so-called Krukenberg operation), deserve particular mention. In addition to war-disabled, therefore, we also see paralytics and persons crippled by accidents learning to drive.

The driving-school for the disabled of the German Red Cross now has 3 different types of cars, all equipped with special devices¹. The learners are thus taught to drive whatever their disablement may be. These devices are later installed in the students' own cars, in such a way that the car can also be driven by able-bodied persons.

The great advantage of this driving-school is the fact that it has different types of cars so that while they are learning to drive, the

¹ *Plate.*

disabled can decide which model is best suited to their individual needs. Another important point is the fact that the teachers themselves have in most cases suffered disablement and learners have less difficulty therefore in overcoming any psychological drawbacks. In addition, their personal experience makes these teachers better suited to give advice.

The working capacity of most of the students is reduced by 50 %-80 %. They come from all professional circles ; nevertheless, employees, persons engaged in a trade and those of independent means are in the majority. Many who were unable to work before have been able to find regular employment as a result of their training. In view of the satisfactory results obtained, professional associations and public welfare authorities have in many cases taken over part or all of the cost of the course.

The Red Cross driving-school receives numerous applications from firms wishing to employ disabled lorry drivers on a permanent basis, because they have the reputation of being particularly careful and obliging. Moreover, their working capacity is in no way below that of their able-bodied colleagues. In accordance with regulations, however, contacts between employers and the disabled are made exclusively through official employment agencies.

The Red Cross driving-school in Berlin has already made a name for itself far beyond Berlin ; a number of disabled have come from abroad and obtained their driving licences in the city.

Iraq

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society recently issued its third annual report, giving an account of this National Society's activities in 1960. A copy of this report having been sent to the ICRC, a translation has been made of the most important passages. We think it all the more appropriate to give these essential points since Miss A. Pfirter, delegate of the ICRC, when in Baghdad in February last, had the opportunity of seeing the efficient work in many fields accomplished by this National Society, and the general interest taken in that country in the Geneva

Conventions and the basic principles of our humanitarian movement. Our delegate met several leading figures¹, gave a talk to members of the Red Crescent, nurses and first-aid workers and spoke on television.

The Prime Minister, H.E. Abdel-Karim Kassem was present at the ceremony held in Baghdad in commemoration of July 14, when the first stone was laid of the Nursing School and an artificial limb workshop which are being built in Baghdad. These two establishments will be built and equipped by the Iraqi Red Crescent in conjunction with the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

In his speech, the Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction and admiration to see all that had been done by the National Society to alleviate suffering in Iraq.

Mrs. Samia El-Rawi, Secretary of the Women's Section welcomed the Prime Minister² and gave a summary of the history of the Society and its activities since its foundation until the present day. Before leaving, the Prime Minister thanked the members of the Committee and the Women's Section for their welcome and said a few encouraging words on behalf of all who work for the Iraqi Red Crescent. Furthermore, the Government had duly recognised the Iraqi Red Crescent as a voluntary aid society whose work extends to numerous fields. This official recognition will strengthen the Society's position and enable it to accomplish, more effectively, its humanitarian work throughout the country.

Administration and Finance. — Meetings of the General Assembly and the Council were held at the Society's headquarters in March 1960. The members of the Committee for 1960 were elected. The General Assembly took note of the annual reports and financial statements and approved the figures of the general budget, i.e. Income 41,519 dinars ; Expenditure 32,751 dinars.

The main resources of the Society over the past years consisted of the income from rents, the share of the proceeds of the National Lottery allocated to the Society (5,429,866 dinars in 1960), investments, contributions from members of the Society and donations.

Relief Work. — In addition to its permanent activities, the Society assists, so far as its means allow, the victims of disasters

¹ *Plate*

² *Id.*

inside and outside the country. The relief actions undertaken during the past year were as follows :

1. Gift of 5,000 dinars, through the Algerian Red Crescent in Tunis, on behalf of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco.

2. Gift of 5,000 dinars on behalf of the Agadir victims, placed at the disposal of the League in Geneva, in charge of the organisation of relief for these victims.

3. Gift of 1,000 dinars through the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, for the victims of the Laars disaster.

4. Distribution of 400 blankets and 600 dinars to Iraqi flood victims in the Arbil area.

5. Gift of 1,000 dinars to the inhabitants of the El-Ratba district suffering from the effects of bad weather and drought.

6. Gift of 1,000 dinars on behalf of monsoon victims in East Pakistan (sent through the Pakistan Red Cross).

7. Gift of 1,000 dinars to the Women's Section of the Iraqi Red Crescent, Baghdad, plus 150 dinars towards this Section's participation in the ceremony for the commemoration of July 14.

8. Gift of artificial legs to cripples, students and the disabled of the armed forces. The cost of these artificial limbs, imported from abroad, was 500 dinars.

Last summer, several countries took part in the meetings of the International Study Centre, near Geneva. In response to an invitation from the League, the Iraqi Red Crescent sent its Medical Adviser, Dr. Abd-el-Latif El-Badri who attended most of the meetings of the Centre and afterwards went to Jugoslavia to attend the World Health Education Conference held in Oubatia.

In response to an invitation from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the Iraqi Red Crescent sent Mr. Mohammed Salim El-Radhi, Secretary-General, and Dr. Aziz Mahmoud Choukri, Member of the Council, who visited Moscow, Leningrad and Baku during their ten days' stay in the Soviet Union.

The Society appointed one of its members, Dr. Farhan Bakir, Professor at the Medical School, to represent it at the International Conference on Blood Transfusion held in Tokyo (September 1960).

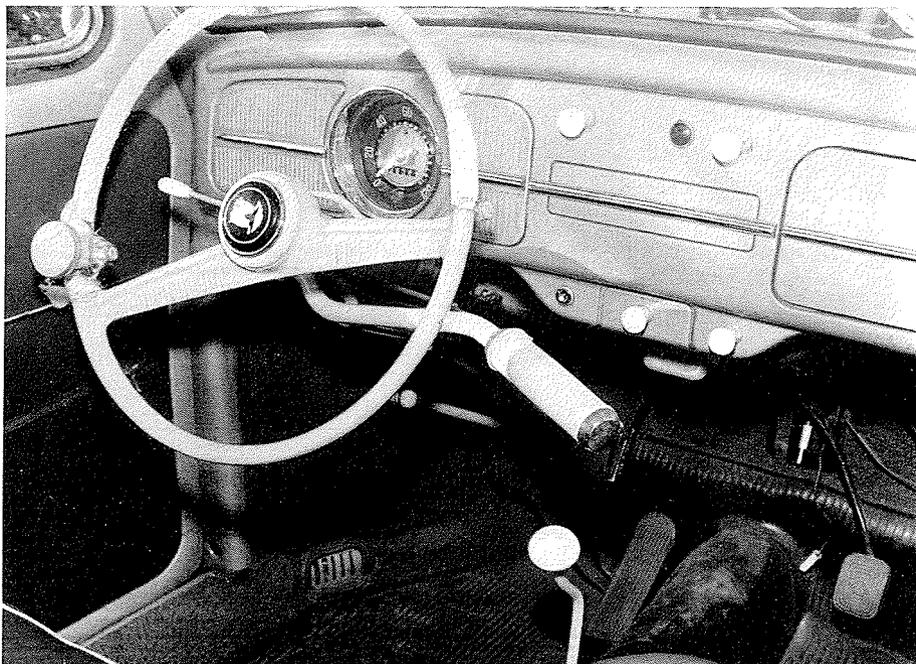
Junior Red Crescent. — The Society is at present considering the creation of a Junior Red Crescent Section, with a view to encouraging the spirit of mutual aid among young people. It has



One of the cars of the driving-school for the disabled...

BERLIN

... showing the special devices.





Mrs. Samia El-Rawi of the Iraqi Red Crescent, welcomes the Prime Minister, Mr. Kassem.

IRAQI

Miss A. Pfirter, delegate of the ICRC and the Iraqi Minister of Health Mr. Chawaf. (February 1961.)



set up a special Committee entrusted with the drafting of the statutes. This Section will be attached to the Society's headquarters.

Future programmes. — The Nursing School and artificial limb workshop will be built on ground belonging to the Society and will be of the most modern description.

In addition, the Society has finished its study of the plans for a building (12 stories) which it wishes to erect on its own ground. The Council of the Society has approved the budget submitted for this purpose.

Publications. — The Society received 3,000 copies of the three last issues of the League's publication in Arabic which have been distributed to members of the Iraqi Red Crescent, medical institutions and universities. It has also had printed in Arabic 4,000 copies of the Handbook on Nursing for the use of the Society's nurses and in hospital establishments.

Children's Clinic. — The Society spent the sum of 25,000 dinars for the enlargement of this centre's premises.

Sections. — The Society has sections for men and women in the following regional districts ; Mosul, Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Arbil and Sulaimaniya. Special aid is afforded to these Sections by the Central Committee to enable them to carry on their work. The medical, social and relief activities of the Sections are the following :

Women's Section, Baghdad. — The number of members of this section—one of the most progressive—now exceeds 1,800. Its resources are drawn from members' subscriptions, funds resulting from displays and shows, fancy fairs and a shop where clothing and articles made by the members of the Section are sold.

Besides the occasional financial assistance given from headquarters, the Section receives an annual grant of 1,200 dinars from the Ministry of Finance.

The Section's main activities consist of help to poor people (so far as means allow), distributions of clothing and bedding for infants, the improvement of health conditions in poor districts, distributions of gifts to children in schools and others on some feast-days, etc. It also organises special courses on first-aid and health, given by specialists appointed by the Society, lectures and study courses.

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For this purpose, it calls upon student-nurses who have taken the courses and obtained diplomas in social service and public health work. These courses were instituted in 1956 in behalf of student-nurses with a view to improving medical care in Iraq, increasing the number of nurses (of whom the country is in need) and training them for duties in first-aid centres in times of emergency. This year, fifty-four nurses obtained their certificate and four hundred and fifty were admitted to the various courses.

The Section participates in the winter relief campaign organised by the Government, and it also helps in organising Arab Children's Days in conjunction with several women's and social organisations. On these occasions it distributes gifts and prizes to mothers, etc. Members of this Section also assist voluntary aids of the Iraqi Red Crescent in giving courses in child welfare at the Iraqi Red Crescent Hospital.

Women's Section, Basra — This Section was again opened in 1960 and is busily engaged in the dispensaries under its direction where supplies of milk and children's clothing are distributed to mothers of families. It also distributes clothing and gifts to poor school-children, to hospital patients and infants. It took part in the Arab Children's Day held in Basra.

Kirkuk Sections. — There are two sections, one for men and one for women. A grant of 500 dinars from the headquarters was made to the Women's Section which has now overcome certain difficulties.

Children's Centre. — As part of its medico-social work, the Iraqi Red Crescent is in charge of a children's centre in Sâadoune. It gives elementary courses on health and the prevention of disease to mothers, to whom it distributes milk, vitamins and clothing. Sixteen thousand children have been cleaned, weighed and given treatment ; 800 litres of milk, 50 kgs. of cod-liver-oil, clothing, soap, etc. have been distributed.

The Iraqi Red Crescent closes its report for 1960 by saying that it will continue its relief work and health instruction on behalf of all who are in need.

United States

The American Red Cross has submitted its annual report for the period June 1959—June 1960 to the ICRC, so that we can offer our readers a survey of the numerous and effective activities of this National Society.

In their introductory message to the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman and the President of the American Red Cross observe, among other things, that “the services performed in the past year justify a sense of increased confidence in the resilient strength of the American Red Cross for serving the people of our country and for responding to calls for help from other parts of the world.” The message refers to the work of adapting programmes to the ever-changing circumstances, which demand ever-new working methods, especially in “the co-ordination of voluntary resources and the grouping of chapters”.

The report opens with the services rendered to the armed forces and veterans. “The Red Cross is a messenger between the men and women of the armed forces, whose units are broadly scattered around the world”.¹ Thus, in the first place, the activity of the Red Cross consists in transmitting messages (over a million were carried last year, bringing both joyful and sorrowful news, but all invaluable for the families concerned). In addition, staff especially assigned to this work, lend a helping hand in solving family problems and, if necessary, providing material aid in the form of loans and grants to enable families to meet various economic difficulties.

This staff is also responsible for the traditional Red Cross programme. Assisted by thousands of trained volunteers, especially overseas, they care for the sick and wounded, as well as for mothers and children, so that the standard of health in the American communities abroad is kept at the same level as at home. In addition, a recreation programme, which is carried out each year at the request of the Department of Defense, was successfully continued in North Africa and Europe. The Red Cross centres in certain towns in Morocco and France promote friendly contacts between servicemen and the local inhabitants in order to increase

¹ *Annual Report for the Year ended June 30, 1960*, Washington.

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mutual understanding. In Korea also a special recreation programme was prepared and carried out.

All these activities organized by the Home Service and the Overseas Recreation Department are essential to fulfil the Red Cross purpose of acting "in accord with the military authorities". A few figures will illustrate the extent of this work: during the year under review, 12,000 volunteers gave about 83,000 hours of service per month in the field of social welfare and recreation work in the hundred Army, Navy and Air Force hospitals.

A further important and often touching activity is that of providing relief in the case of natural disasters. Thus, within the United States, from Maine to Alaska and Hawai, the Red Cross participated in 325 relief operations during the year, bringing help to the victims of all types of natural disasters. Working in co-operation with community leaders and governmental agencies, and seconded by the different "chapters"—for drawing up and carrying out emergency plans—the Red Cross was able to come to the aid of those who had been forced to leave their homes and had lost all their belongings.

Internationally, the Disaster Services showed their flexibility, co-operating quickly and efficiently in relief operations on behalf of the victims of catastrophes, the most important being that in Chile. The American Red Cross worked in close co-operation with other organizations. A team was dispatched to assist the Chilean Red Cross and the authorities in administering relief to the 50,000 homeless persons. This aid was made possible by the generous contributions of the American people whose gifts in cash and in kind amounted to \$4,500,000, of which \$2,135,900 were distributed through the Red Cross.

We are going into this relief operation in more detail because we consider it to be a typical example of what can be achieved with a feeling of solidarity and strong discipline in an action carried out with a view to readaptation and providing for the future: the construction of villages on the island of Chiloe and in selected rural areas in Southern Chile, totalling 400 houses; the purchase of equipment and machinery to carry out the building project, and household furnishings for houses completed; filling 100,000 Christmas packages; assembling 150 school assistance sets

and 100 kindergarten sets; purchasing tools, sewing machines and other equipment for vocational schools; establishing youth rooms for activities in Red Cross "chapter" buildings; and planning financial grants to students hit by disaster losses to enable them to complete their education.

As the year ended, other projects were still under study. But apart from Chile, other countries have also been assisted by the American Red Cross: aid to 10,000 Moroccans paralyzed after eating adulterated cooking oil; Agadir, Cyprus, Formosa, Austria, Greece, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Libya, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines and Tunisia: the American Red Cross stepped in to help in all these countries.

Still in the field of international aid, it should be pointed out that this National Society co-operated in tracing missing persons and participated in the first internal study centre organized by the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva. Moreover, study programmes were arranged in this country for 31 National Societies; technical advice was given to other Societies on blood, nursing and disaster relief programmes. Adult and junior members of this Society and the Red Cross of various countries established personal contacts through exchange programmes, thus strengthening the ties between the Societies for the benefit of their common work.

The Nursing Services have put particular emphasis this year on the care for the aged; special courses were organized, designed to help men and women maintain good physical and mental health in their later years. These Nursing Services also went to work wherever a dangerous situation threatened, using jeeps, weasels, helicopters and other means of transport to reach the most distant localities in a minimum of time. Thus, the use of the most up-to-date means of transport is a further example of the efforts of the Red Cross to adapt itself to any conditions it might have to face.

In conclusion, we quote a few figures which will give an idea of the extent of the work being performed by the American Red Cross: 2 million men and women give their time, as voluntary helpers, while the Society has 12,900 paid employees (3,700 in the national organization and 9,200 in the 3655 chapters—which also include 2840 sub-chapters). The total annual income for the

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period under review reached over 95 million dollars, while expenditures reached almost 87 million dollars, which included the expenses of : disaster services, blood services, educational programmes, international aid, information and health and nursing services.

There is still a great deal to be said concerning the activities of this National Society and the alert and dynamic spirit of its Juniors ; with remarkable energy it extends its closely-welded network over the entire country : volunteers, nurses, " grey ladies ", members of the Junior Red Cross, all have their own programmes which they carry out enthusiastically in the knowledge that the best of oneself is the part that one gives for others. This " giving of oneself " which we find in the National Societies is one of the most important characteristics of the spirit of our movement.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

REGULATIONS CONCERNING TELECOMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOSPITAL SHIPS AND THE ARMED FORCES

In its issue of August 1959 the *Revue internationale* published the results of the work of a Committee, consisting of Swiss, Swedish and Italian experts which met at the headquarters of the ICRC and which drew up draft regulations entitled : " Means of radioelectrical and visual communication to give increased security during armed conflicts to ships, craft and aircraft protected under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims ".

These draft regulations were subsequently adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference and the International Telecommunication Union.

At the request of the Swedish and Italian Governments, the Swiss Federal Council has recently officially submitted the text of these regulations to the States party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 inviting them to adopt this draft as an internal regulation, and to notify the Swiss Government accordingly.

The draft regulations are in fact an answer to Resolution 6 of the Diplomatic Conference of 1949. This aims at making use of present available technical methods to ensure the maximum protection for hospital ships and medical aircraft. It is therefore to be hoped that there will be no objections to its adoption. In view of the considerable humanitarian interest which it presents, its application by all maritime States will without doubt make a great contribution towards the more effective protection of victims of future possible conflicts.

RECOGNITION OF NETHERLANDS COASTAL RESCUE SOCIETIES

The Second Geneva Convention of 1949 for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea contains a new provision, Article 27 which offers protection, in time of war, to craft employed by lifeboat institutions and to their fixed coastal installations. These institutions should have officially been recognized by the State.

In order to give effect to this provision of international law a Royal decree has recently been promulgated in the Netherlands, the text of which has been sent to us by the Netherlands Red Cross and is now published below. We believe that it will be of interest to other countries which are faced with a similar problem.

The decree is not so much of interest for giving effect to provisions of the Convention as for the fact that it fills an important gap in that Convention.

Article 27 in fact affords protection to the personnel of lifeboat institutions which are members of the crews of rescue craft or of fixed coastal installations. The Convention however does not stipulate how this personnel should show its right of protection: in other words it does not expressly confer upon it the use of the armband bearing the red cross on a white ground nor of the identity card as laid down in article 42 for medical and hospital personnel of hospital ships.

The Netherlands decree, which repairs this omission in the text of the Convention, authorizes this personnel to wear the distinctive emblem and the use of the identity card. Although this authorization is given within clearly defined limits, that is to say, in time of war only and whilst on active operations either on board rescue craft or in fixed coastal installations, it constitutes nevertheless a wide extension of the Convention. Such an interpretation could however appear to be reasonable since the protection which is accorded, under certain conditions, to personnel of life-boat institutions cannot be fully effective unless it is able to justify its privileged status. This could even be considered as giving an important guarantee to the adverse party. The latter would thus be given proof that no unauthorized persons would be found in craft or installations, seeking to take advantage of immunity to which they have no right.

Besides, this is not the only gap in the Second Geneva Convention regarding coastal rescue craft which has been filled. If fixed coastal installations used exclusively as bases for coastal rescue craft have been given protection since 1949, the Convention however has not expressly conferred the use of the red cross emblem. In the Commentary on the Convention¹ it was put forward as a reasonable interpretation that these fixed coastal installations could be admitted as being justified in displaying the emblem, since, as the Convention stipulates, this must be in a position to be identified at a distance for it to be respected by the adverse party.

J. P.

ROYAL DECREE NO. 168 OF 16 APRIL 1960²
GIVING RECOGNITION TO COASTAL RESCUE SOCIETIES

Article 1: 1) The “Koninklijke Noord en Zuid Hollandse Reddingmaatschappij” in Amsterdam and the “Koninklijke Zuid Hollandse Maatschappij tot redding van Schipbreukelingen” in Rotterdam—hereafter termed “societies”—are recognized rescue societies as applicable under Article 27 of the Geneva Convention (of August 12, 1949) for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea—hereafter termed “the Convention”.

2) The societies shall carry out their tasks by observing the provisions of the Convention and the regulations as prescribed by the present decree, and also in accordance with instructions which may be given by our Minister of Public Works, by the Commander-in-chief of the Netherlands naval forces or by those which may be given on behalf of these authorities in application of the Convention and of the present decree.

¹ Commentary published under the general editorship of Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, 1960.

² Published in the *Journal Officiel* on May 10, 1960.

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Article 2 : 1) The necessary number of special identity cards and armllets stamped by the military authority shall be made available to the societies by our Minister of Public Works or by those acting on his behalf.

2) The identity card made out by our Minister of Public Works shall be, as far as possible, similar to the model annexed to the Convention. Identity cards shall be held by the societies so that they may be completed and issued when required to their personnel without delay.

3) Armllets shall bear the distinctive emblem of the red cross on a white ground. These and the stamp of the military authority shall be water-resistant.

4) Societies will inform our Minister of Public Works and the Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces of the Netherlands where identity cards and armllets are held.

Article 3 : 1) Our Minister of Public Works shall be responsible for supervising the commissioning and the putting into service of new craft which the Societies may employ.

He will also be responsible for issuing to these vessels a document declaring that they have been built or equipped specially and solely with a view to assisting the wounded, sick and shipwrecked. The model of this document shall be made out by our Minister of Public Works.

2) Craft which are already in commission shall also receive the document mentioned in the preceding paragraph, after submitting to one inspection.

Article 4 : 1) In the event of the threat of armed conflict or of armed conflict having already broken out, in which the Kingdom may be involved and which foreshadow acts of war in Europe, societies shall take all the necessary measures as laid down in the Convention to ensure, as far as possible, the protection of their personnel, craft and coastal installations.

2) In any case, measures as laid down in the preceding paragraph shall be taken as soon as the societies receive instructions from our Minister of Public Works.

Article 5 : 1) During the conflict to which article 4 refers, or after receiving instructions as mentioned in the second paragraph of the said article, personnel of the societies shall carry identity cards and wear, affixed to the left arm, the armlet when on board vessels used by the societies or when in fixed coastal installations used exclusively by these vessels.

2) The use of identity cards and armlets as well as the red cross emblem as laid down by the Convention shall be controlled by the Commander-in-Chief of the Netherlands naval forces.

In connection with this control, the societies shall inform the Commander-in-Chief of the Netherlands naval forces immediately of the issue and withdrawal of identity cards.

Article 6 : Our Minister of Public Works or the Commander-in-Chief of the Netherlands naval forces may give additional instructions relative to the execution of the present decree.

Given at Soestdijk, 16 April 1960

Signed :
JULIANA

A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

Leprosy: The Red Cross provides social care. — *Monthly News and Report, League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva February 1961.*

Though the "open door" treatment, newest approach in the cure of leprosy, has brought relief from social ostracism for many sufferers, victims of this scourge are still in urgent need of social care. Such help is given in many countries by the National Red Cross Societies which have contributed to this work for over a quarter of a century. Fifteen National Societies, often aided by their Junior Sections, are engaged in activities on behalf of lepers.

Aid given concentrates on improving the wellbeing of patients, mostly through the means of regular distributions of food and all kinds of comforts. In Swaziland the British Red Cross Branch provides gramophones, records, heaters, wool for knitting blankets and even seeds and plants for those who enjoy gardening. Besides distributions, the Cambodian Red Cross organises an annual visit to the cinema—an almost unheard-of treat for leper patients.

Families of lepers are also helped by their Red Cross Societies to overcome the difficulties which the disease can bring. The White Ladies of the Costa Rican Society make regular visits to the families of lepers and obtain financial support for them until the patient is able to return home. In South Africa the link between the leper and his family is maintained by the National Society, which provides rail tickets for relatives visiting patients and, for those who must travel long distances, obtains rooms where they can stay the night.

Societies participate in medical care for lepers only in Tanganyika where this Branch of the British Red Cross has participated in the construction of a leprosarium giving treatment to more than 4,000 lepers and two "Clean Babies' Homes", and in the Congo where prior to its independence the Branch of the Belgian Red Cross established leprosaria and homes for patients and their families, but several Societies give material support to medical services by their special fundraising campaigns. Leprosy weeks are organised by the Red Cross of Brazil and the Ethiopian Red Cross has made a film on the condition of the leper to aid fundraising campaigns in Sweden.

Even in countries where leprosy is unknown, National Societies are helping to alleviate the plight of the leper by aid in cash or kind to their sister Societies. The Swedish Red Cross takes part in national fund-raising, toys from the Netherlands Red Cross delight child victims in Dutch Guiana and the Juniors of the New Zealand Red Cross help the National Society of India to provide beds, mattresses and special shoes for the child lepers of their country.

Health in the Congo. — *W. H. O. Chronicle, Geneva, February 1961.*

. . . Disintegration of the health services began to be noticed towards the end of 1959. The first symptom was antagonism on the part of the population towards the activities of the European sanitarians: people began to refuse vaccination and failed to attend for medical screening by the mobile teams. By July 1960 vaccination and screening had ceased completely in the rural areas and in many of the urban areas. About this time an exodus of European personnel began; two-thirds of the doctors, all the civilian graduate nurses, and the great majority of the European sanitarians left the country. About 150 Congolese medical assistants and 1,000 male nurses were left to carry on the medical work. Most of the regional hospitals were depleted of European personnel and only the provincial hospitals continued to function, though with restricted staff. Preventive services were discontinued altogether; organized vaccination programmes and vector control measures ceased, while the water supply installations were left in the hands of untrained Congolese workers. The medical supply system was disorganized, for, though the central depot and many of the provincial stores had adequate supplies, these could not reach the more distant areas for lack of transport facilities. In general, there was no loss of supplies or equipment through theft or wanton destruction. However, some loss occurred through lack of proper maintenance or misuse due to ignorance.

Following an appeal by the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations asked WHO to help deal with the emergency and to convey a similar request to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. A team of WHO advisers proceeded immediately to the Congo and placed its services at the disposal of the Government. A survey of the situation revealed that the principal emergency was in the field of preventive services and environmental sanitation. The medical care services had suffered less, since the Congolese auxiliaries continued to carry out routine examinations and treatment of patients in the clinics and health centres, and cases of major surgery were referred to the provincial hospitals. On the

preventive side, however, services were completely paralysed. Shortly after the arrival of the WHO team, National Red Cross Societies (at the request of the International Red Cross bodies) and some governments started sending emergency medical teams composed of doctors and nurses. By the middle of August there were 34 teams from 20 different countries ; 27 of these teams were sent by National Red Cross Societies and 7 by national governments.

The function of the WHO advisory team was twofold. It had to assist the Government in meeting the immediate emergency and it had to advise it on the long-range planning of an efficient health organization. It fulfilled the first function by acting as a co-ordinator of the medical emergency teams, both Red Cross and national. These teams were distributed among the various regional centres and put in charge of hospitals, clinics, etc. A number of public health personnel had to be recruited immediately to deal with such pressing problems as safe water supplies, vaccination campaigns and vector control. The long-term action of WHO consisted in drawing up detailed plans for the organization of health services, the recruitment of personnel and the training of Congolese medical and paramedical personnel. The principal aims of the WHO plan are as follows :

1. to adapt the existing structure and organization of the health services to the changing needs of the country ;
2. to recruit international personnel for the efficient operation of the medical care and preventive services ;
3. to embark immediately on an extensive programme for the training of local personnel.

It is estimated that the minimum number of foreign personnel that will have to be recruited from abroad for the next 10 to 15 years is between 700 and 800, including doctors, engineers, sanitarians and other technicians. Programmes have already been started to accelerate the training of Congolese personnel to take over key positions as soon as possible. Thus, 60 Congolese medical assistants, have been admitted to 5 schools of medicine in France, starting in the fourth year of the regular course which leads, 3 years later, to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Assistance was given to the Lovanium University to increase its annual intake of students of medicine from the present number of between 10 and 15 to as many as 40. Fellowships were offered to undergraduates, and 7 of them have started their medical studies in France and in Switzerland (Geneva). On-the-job training programmes for nurses, administrators, laboratory technicians, etc. will soon be initiated, enabling Congolese personnel to fill key positions in hospitals, laboratories, etc. These are just a few examples of how WHO is hastening the training of Congolese staff.

Miss Nightingale at Scutari, by C.T. Andrews, M.D., F.R.C.P. *International Nursing Review*, London, October, 1960.

A recent trip to Istanbul afforded an opportunity to pay a visit to Selimiye Barracks at Scutari. The Barrack Hospital is today a Turkish army barracks as indeed it was prior to 1854. The Turkish authorities had lent it to the British for use as a hospital...

...It was on November 3, 1854 that the *Vectis* carrying Miss Nightingale and her party of 38 nurses anchored off Seraglio point not very far from the terminus for passenger ships today. After their enthusiastic send-off and their triumphant progress through France to Marseilles the trip through the Mediterranean should have provided a quiet interlude before the battle. But, alas, Miss Nightingale, though a good horsewoman, was a poor sailor. She was sick all the way. A storm hit them in the sea of Marmara carrying away the steward's cabins and galley. Miss Nightingale staggered on deck to look at the plains of Troy and the Tomb of Achilles, but by the time they reached Constantinople the storm had blown itself out and the whole party assembled on deck to look with more than idle curiosity at a gaunt square building with a tower at each angle which faced them across the narrow stretch of sea, which at this point separates Europe from Asia.

Miss Nightingale and her party crossed in rowing boats. If they had any illusions of a romantic nature they were speedily dispersed by what they saw. A dead horse floated in the sea just off the landing stage and the hollow square which made up the central courtyard of the Barracks was occupied by great piles of rubbish which no doubt provided a fertile feeding ground for flies and insects of many varieties and a breeding ground for the virulent bacteria which were to carry off so many of their patients in the months ahead.

Structurally the hospital seems to have changed but little in the hundred years since the Crimean War. The cheerless corridors, the cold and stony floors are still there. A corridor in fact leads the whole length of each side of the building giving an impression of vastness which brought to mind Miss Nightingale's observation that they had four miles of beds and something of the magnitude of the task even of doing the nightly round.

We were conducted to Miss Nightingale's room in the North West tower. It was from this room that the nursing administration of the Barrack Hospital was carried on and here, in the small hours of the morning, that she would sit down to write those long letters home which today provide us with the bulk of our knowledge of the day to day conflict which was waged not only with disease and death, but with appalling shortage of supplies and worse still with the ignorance and stupidity of those who should have been her helpers.

One of the small pieces of fiction which centres round this story is that her nurses were "ladies" drawn from the upper stratum of society. With few exceptions, mainly amongst the religious communities, this was not so. Most of her nurses were attracted by the higher pay offered. They got 12 to 14 shillings a week, which was nearly twice the pay of a nurse at home. It is worth remembering that, in days when sectarian bitterness could reach incredible depths, Miss Nightingale took with her ten Roman Catholic Sisters (from Bermondsey and Norwood), eight Anglican Sisters (from Devonport) and six Protestant nurses from St. Johns House, London. That a party so constituted should have been held together at all was a remarkable feat of diplomacy and administration. That its impact on the world of nursing should have been such as it became is a tribute to the complex ability of the greatest English woman of the Victorian age.

The party arrived at the Barrack Hospital at a crucial moment, for the next day the battle of Inkermann was fought. The shortage of supplies which she noted on the evening of her arrival was shortly to be accentuated by a fresh influx of wounded. In the ten days which it took the transports to cross the Black Sea her powers of diplomacy and discipline were to be sternly tested. On the one hand there was the fact that the doctors did not appear to want her help and she would let no nurse enter the wards uninvited. On the other hand there was the appalling shortage of supplies which she alone had the means to remedy. They had no plates, knives, forks or spoons, no basins, towels, soap, brooms, mops or trays, no operating tables, no drugs, stretchers, splints or bandages and yet in the bazaars of Constantinople you could buy all these things and Miss Nightingale had at her disposal a fund of £30,000.

But for a week the little party sat making splints, shirts, pillows, stump rests and slings. They went to church and heard an admirable sermon by the hospital chaplain. Grumbles on the part of her nurses were answered by silence. Like Disraeli she did not believe in wasting words on explanation and apology.

I wondered as I looked out at the landing stage where the transports brought their wounded, how nicely her policy of "wait and see" was calculated. Did she know the plight of the army before Sebastopol? The Crimean winter was upon it. On November 14 a hurricane blew all day ripping away the tents, the marquees and even the blankets which covered the wounded. The snow fell and the troops shivered in helpless misery. Some even froze to death. Did she sense the calamity which lay ahead for the great Barrack Hospital itself? Most of the men shipped from Balaclava to Scutari suffered from frostbite, starvation, pleurisy, pneumonia or gangrene. As if not already sufficiently discomfited they were now to have dysentery, typhoid and cholera added. Starved and in rags, swarming with vermin they pillowed their

heads on their boots and used their greatcoats caked with blood and mud as blankets.

Whether she knew or not it is certain that the flood of wounded from Inkermann brought an end to the period of inactivity for Miss Nightingale's nurses. All who could help were now pressed into service and Miss Nightingale was given a chance, albeit a limited one, to show what a combination of knowledge, training and discipline could do.

In her week of inactivity she had not been wasting her time. She had looked around Constantinople. She says nothing about the mosques which draw the modern tourist. But she was captivated by the bazaars. Here was one of the great markets of the world. Here you could buy nearly everything the Barrack Hospital needed. And so gradually it came to be known that if you wanted anything, be it a water bed or a milk pudding, Miss Nightingale had it. Writing to Sidney Herbert on January 4, 1855, she says:— "I am a kind of general dealer in socks, shirts, knives and forks, wooden spoons, tin baths, tables and forms, cabbages and carrots, operating tables, towels and soap, small tooth combs, precipitate for destroying lice, scissors, bed pans and stump pillows."

Looking around the small room—it is about 15 feet square—that served as an office, one reflected on the feverish activity those bare walls had witnessed 100 years ago. Her letters still bring the scenes of the Barrack Hospital so vividly before one that one reads on with a fascinated horror. The amputations in the wards in full view of the other patients and without anaesthetics, the erysipelas, cholera and gangrene, the sublime courage of the common soldier and a hundred daily incidents are all there. There are too, the flashes of humour with which she describes for example the nursing mutiny over the shape of the caps...

...Florence Nightingale had a graphic way of portraying the progress made in reducing mortality. From her diagram it is clear that for the period February 1 to 25, 1855, the mortality was 42 per cent. In the course of six months it was reduced to 5.2 per cent. But mortality figures by themselves gives little indication of the horror and heart-break, the frustration, incompetence and apathy which surrounded this courageous, dynamic and challenging figure.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross¹.

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

¹ The International Red Cross, comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in cooperation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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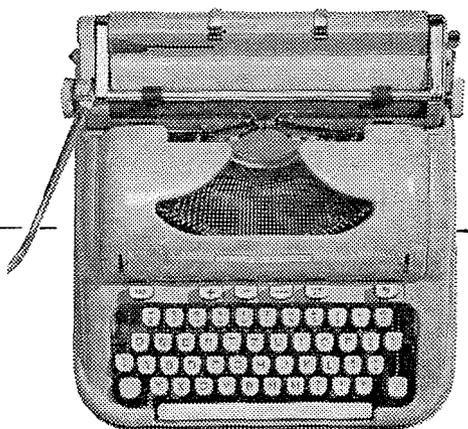


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The International Committee publishes works on law and on humanitarian ideas. The following have been published or reprinted recently:

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. *Geneva, 1949.* 249 p., Sw. fr. 8.—.

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. Brief Summary for Members of the Armed Forces and the General Public. — *Geneva, 1951.* 13 p., Sw. fr. 1.—.

Commentaries published under the general editorship of Jean S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross. (*Translated from the original French*) :

I. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. — *Geneva, 1952.* 466 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 12.— ; bound Sw. fr. 15.—.

II. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. — *Geneva, 1960.* 320 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 15.— ; bound Sw. fr. 20.—.

III. Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. — *Geneva, 1960.* 764 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 30.— ; bound Sw. fr. 35.—.

IV. Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. — *Geneva, 1958.* 660 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 25.— ; bound Sw. fr. 30.—.

Some publications of the ICRC

Reservations to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, by *Claude Pilloud*.
— Geneva, 1958. 29 p., Sw. fr. 2.—.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). What it is — What it does. Geneva, 1960. *Illus.*, Sw. fr. 0.50.

Red Cross Principles, by *Jean S. Pictet*. *Preface by Max Huber*.
Geneva, 1956. 154 p., Sw. fr. 7.—.

The Red Cross and Peace, by *Jean-G. Lossier*. — Geneva, 1951.
31 p., Sw. fr. 2.—.

The Red Cross and Peace, by *Jean S. Pictet*, — Geneva, 1951.
11 p., Sw. fr. 1.—.

The Doctor in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 — by *J.-P. Schoenholzer*. — Geneva, 1961. 59 p., Sw. fr. 3.—.

Some Advice to Nurses and other Members of the Medical Services of the Armed Forces, by *Lucie Odier, Member of the ICRC*.
— Geneva, 1951. 9 p., Sw. fr. 0.25.

Annual Report 1959. — Geneva, 1960. 81 p., Sw. fr. 5.—.

Can the Status of Prisoners of War be altered?, by *René-Jean Wilhelm*. Geneva, 1953, 37 p., Sw. fr. 2.—.

The above publications can be obtained from the headquarters of the ICRC, 7, avenue de la Paix, Geneva (Switzerland).

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
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- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
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- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
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- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, Strand Road, *Rangoon*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Turret Road, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria, 0150 *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA (People's Republic) — National Red Cross Society of China, *Peking*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22 *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *Ciudad Trujillo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8^e)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitou 1, *Athens*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1, Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 2*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Korean Red Cross Building 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, *Beirut*.

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- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Ducor Hall, 109 Front st, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Sharia Gasser Hamed, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4^o piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, quai des Etats-Unis, *Monaco*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61, Dixon Street, *Wellington C.I.*
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
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- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- TAIWAN (China) — Red Cross Society, *Taipeh*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building, 14 Hollard Street, *Johannesburg*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramsis, *Cairo*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triêu, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hồng-Thập-Tu, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.